

RED CROSS QUICKLY RESPONDS TO NEED

District Chapter Begins Relief Almost Immediately After Crash.

With the same zeal and efficiency of service that has become synonymous with the name of the American Red Cross throughout the world, the local chapter responded to the urgent need brought about by the Knickerbocker Theater disaster Saturday night. The District Chapter began to function almost immediately after the crash. Its treasurer, Miss Margaret Hood, who was near to the scene of the tragedy, immediately notified Dr. William E. Clark, head of the medical subcommittee, of the disaster, who summoned in a short time seventy-two doctors, who went to those places throughout the city where their help was needed.

Miss Hood then called Dr. Ralph Jenkins, chairman of the chapter, Miss Mabel T. Boardman and Mrs. Theodore Richards, executive secretary of the chapter. Mrs. Richards at once notified the censor, motor corps, help aides and clerical committees, who quickly responded.

In charge of the various committees were Mrs. Isaac Little, canteen committee; Mrs. R. D. Carter, Mrs. Charles E. Wheeler, substitutes, motor corps committee; Miss Anna Koepfer, clerical committee; Mrs. Scaton Schroeder, with Mrs. Clara Chappell and Mrs. Frank Pledwell, substitutes, help aides committee; Mrs. Marie Chamberlain, head of nursing service; Mrs. William Spencer, head of comfort section, and Mrs. David Roberts, in charge of the production, relief and supplies committee.

Saturday night Mrs. Anna Wilmer and her husband walked ten blocks through the snow to obtain the chauffeurs of the motor trucks who got the cots and blankets for Emergency and Garfield hospitals and also the Christian Scientist Church.

Among the supplies furnished by the Red Cross were 100 blankets, 100 sweaters, 125 pairs of gloves, 50 bathrobes, 150 pairs of socks, 30 pairs of warm pajamas and 100 hot-water bottles. Donations in the form of blankets were received from S. Kann's & Sons.

The help aides assisted in feeding the wounded at the theater, also aiding those still pinned under the debris by means of tubes. The soldiers, sailors, policemen and citizens aiding in relief work were also fed and from time to time given new gloves. Food and careful nursing attention was also given at the Christian Scientist Church.

Generous Public Spirit. Mrs. Richards, in commenting on the work of the Red Cross, stated that she wanted to commend the splendid spirit of the public, who almost overwhelmed the Red Cross with generous gifts, and use of homes, machines and assistance of every kind.

The Junior Red Cross of this city also aided in relief work of the injured and rescuers Saturday night, lasting through today. Every aid that the Junior organization could give was furnished.

Prominent in the work of the organization were Miss Hilda King, Miss Marian King, Miss Edna King, Miss Catherine Chambers and Miss Edwanda Gavre. Members of the Red Cross working with the Col. and corps of ten workers, Alvin Newmyer, Mrs. Natalie Mayer, Mrs. Gilbert Hahn, Mrs. Sylvan King and Mrs. Lawrence Gaschmer.

Salvation Army Assistance. Great assistance in the way of food was rendered by the Salvation Army, headed by Capt. and Mrs. Harold Smith and assisted by Mrs. Robert Early yesterday morning members of the Salvation Army appeared with a supply of food, including a hot coffee, which they gave to the rescuers and injured.

Assistance given the workers by many nearby residents, who invited them in their homes and helped them in the making of coffee and sandwiches.

DEAD VIOLINIST JUST WED. Joseph Wade Beal Leaves Bride of Four Days After Crash.

Joseph Wade Beal, first violinist at the Knickerbocker Theater, married Miss Margaret Denham, his boyhood sweetheart, last Tuesday at the Mount Pleasant M. E. Church. He was not present at the Knickerbocker when the roof crashed, sits in gloom, stunned by the loss that suddenly came to him.

The young man's father, for he was about twenty-two years old, is "Ben" Beal, a veteran musician and a member of the telegraph staff at the arms conference press room. A desire on his part to become a violinist was the cause of many of his troubles. One day an arm through an accident. When Joseph Wade Beal was born in Washington, D. C., he was the son of a violinist on the violin was transferred to his son, who was put to the study of that instrument. He was a rapid learner and, after serving in the Navy during the war, returned to the task of fulfilling his father's dream.

OFFERS TO AID IN HOMES. Group of W. W. C. A. Would Labor for Theater Victims.

The Christian Social Service Group of the Young Women's Christian Association offers its services in any form to the homes of those who suffered injuries and deaths in the Knickerbocker disaster.

The group, it was explained by Mrs. E. R. Brodton the organizer and present "mother" of the society, was about to give girls and boys a Christmas moment's notice to render any aid possible. As the society is at a loss to determine those who need aid, it requested that Miss Mary Wright, chairman, be notified at Main 8587 or Mrs. Brodton at Franklin 1872.

CAPT. VANCE PROMINENT. Victim of Knickerbocker Disaster Well Known in Virginia.

Capt. R. Conroy Vance of Richmond, Va., who, with his wife, was killed in the Knickerbocker Theater disaster, was one of the most prominent men in the Fredericksburg section of Virginia. He was president of the Fredericksburg National Bank of Fredericksburg, president of the Fredericksburg Farmers' Creamery and owner of the Mainfield Hall herd of Jersey cattle and dairy farm near Fredericksburg.

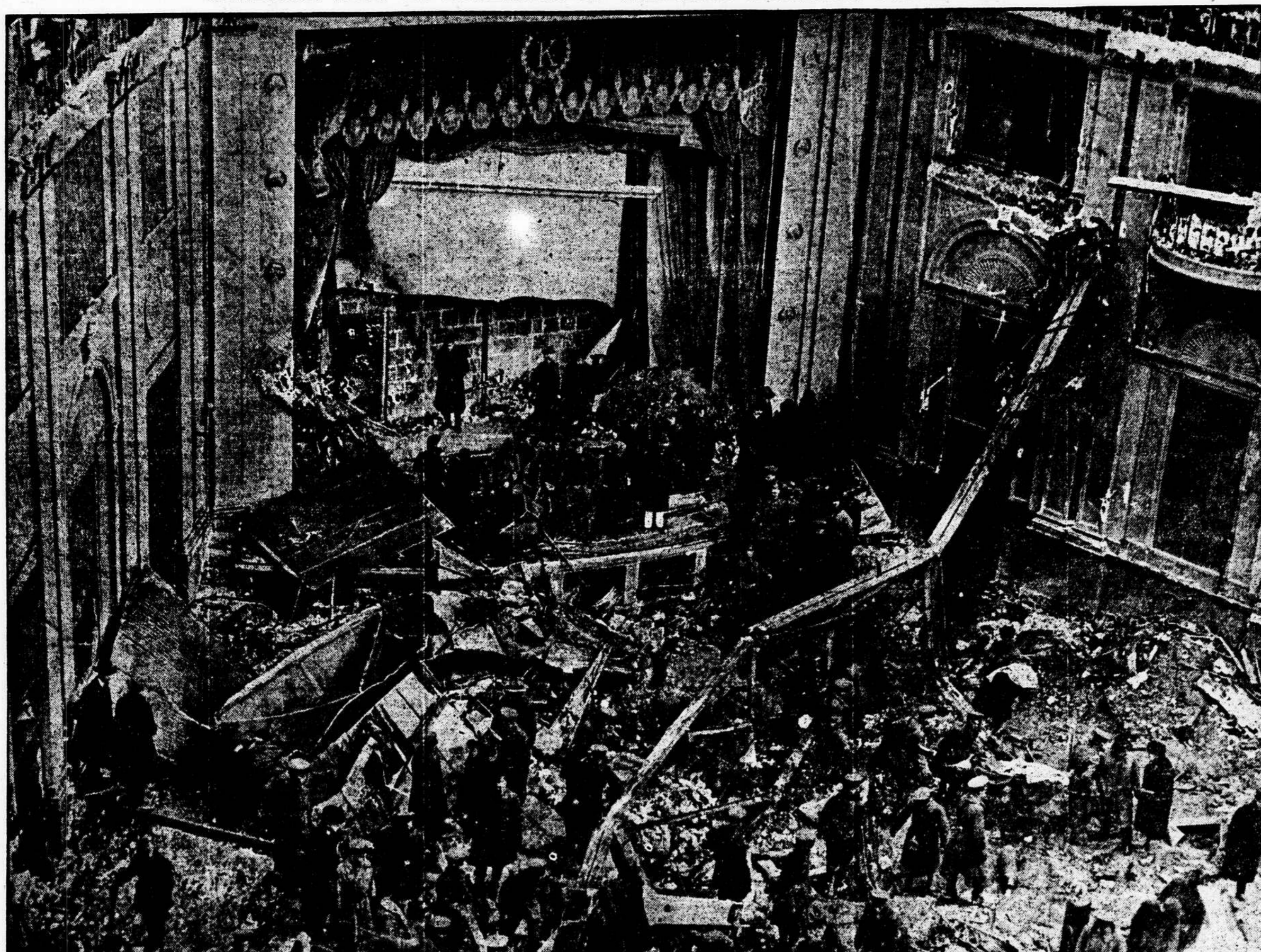
Surviving Capt. and Mrs. Vance are a son and daughter, both of whom are attending school. Capt. Vance leaves his home in Fredericksburg, Va., for his home in England. Mrs. Vance leaves a son in Massachusetts.

MISS PRICE G. W. STUDENT. Theater Victim Daughter of Capt. Price, Beverly Apartments.

Miss Helen H. Price, eighteen years of age, who was killed in the crash, was the daughter of Capt. Price of the Beverly apartments. She was a graduate of Central High School and at the time of her death, was taking a course at George Washington University.

She formerly lived in Oakland, Calif., and attended the Technical School. Her body was taken from the theater to the First Church of Christ, Scientist, and was buried there by her father.

GENERAL VIEW OF INTERIOR OF WRECKED KNICKERBOCKER THEATER



This photograph was taken from the roof of an adjoining building, looking down into the auditorium toward the stage. The picture shows the work of rescue proceeding.

Photo by Bridge.

HOW THE STAR COVERED NEWS OF THEATER HORROR

Splendid Co-operation Shown by Staff at Scene and in Office to Give Public All Possible Information.

When catastrophes such as the one which befell the Knickerbocker Theater Saturday night occur, and people eagerly beseech the newspaper offices for information and glean every line in the paper itself about the accident, there is perhaps little thought given to the organization which must be maintained to gather that information. In the military service there is no better generalship, and the forces in the field are no better trained. Such occurrences as that of Saturday night must be handled without notice, and there is no time to map out a campaign.

Just a few minutes after 9 o'clock Saturday night the big alarm rang out in the Star office and rang out over the city. It showed it was 1:15 and Col. Roosevelt, who was in the office, knowing every part of the city, visualized there was a possibility of serious trouble there, because he knew there was a big theater in the vicinity.

Up the Knickerbocker," he called to an assistant. The order had just fallen from his lips when his telephone rang, and the reporter who always stays at police headquarters said:

"The Knickerbocker Theater has collapsed!"

Reporters Rushed to Scene. That was enough. Two reporters, working on their regular night news, were dispatched immediately. One of them had been brave enough to bring his car out in the storm, and in a few minutes they were speeding through the streets, looking for the scene. In twenty minutes they were there, and went right into the wreckage to ascertain its extent.

Once the city editor knew he had two men to start the work of covering the scene, he began marshaling the other reporters. The Associated Press was notified and in a few brief minutes the first news of the disaster was being sent to the country.

Additional men were dispatched to the scene as they were needed. The first two reporters on the scene set about getting the names of people in the vicinity by calling to them and getting information from those who were conscious. Each person who was brought out of the wreckage, whether injured or not, was interviewed, which made possible some early forecast of the extent of the dead, maimed and injured.

Dressing stations were established in various houses. The reporters had to locate them and everybody who was sent out was followed by a reporter to ascertain where he was being treated. Once these sources of information were established, more attention could be given at the scene. Many of the first identifications of the dead were made by the Star men first on the scene. When a body was laid aside they searched pockets for papers or other means of identification, and if they were not found, they got people who knew they had relatives or friends in the house at the time.

Frankie Appeals for Relief. A scramble through the ruins, a voice heard, a frantic appeal for relief, or a request to notify someone, were the first words that came from the people who were in the house at the time of the crash. They were the first words that came from the people who were in the house at the time of the crash.

And thus the tragedy, which drove everything else from the front page, was covered.

COL. ROOSEVELT OFFERS NAVY YARD EQUIPMENT

Detective Cornwell Anxious to Aid Theater Victims.

Detective Fred M. Cornwell, in charge at police headquarters, from midnight until 3 o'clock in the morning, was one of the busiest men in the police department yesterday. So busy was he kept answering telephone calls and arranging for assistance at the scene of the accident and other places that he was unable to leave the telephone long enough to get a bite to eat. Police officials on duty at the scene of the accident were in frequent communication with him in efforts to get additional assistance and to have him transmit numerous orders to the department.

A number of persons in official life, among them Col. Theodore Roosevelt, assistant secretary of the Navy, telephoned offers of assistance. The assistant secretary being most persistent. Motor trucks, sledges, hammers in order, cutting out duplications, for a demand at the scene of the accident.

Col. Roosevelt told the night chief of detectives that the department could have anything the Navy Department could furnish. Trucks and sledges were soon on their way to the scene.

Requests from all directions to furnish laborers to shovel snow were received by the night chief. "We'll pay them a dollar an hour," said the representative of one big corporation.

At Union station, where laborers were in demand, the instructions were applied by the military authorities, because of the urgency to operate mail trains, and two of the soldiers were injured while at work.

HERO TO THE LAST. Scott Montgomery, Dying, Said, "Help the Women."

Scott Montgomery, chief of the account section, United States Veterans Bureau, killed in the theater crash, was a veteran of the world war. He served as a sergeant in the Medical Corps. He lived at 1824 Biltmore street. He was taken from the ruins alive, but died at the hospital four hours later. His body was taken to Spaulding's undertaking establishment, 1208 H street.

Sgt. Montgomery was a hero to the last. Found by his rescuers pinned in a heavy steel girder and almost buried in a mass of cement and plaster and barely alive, he protested that he was all right and murmured, "For God's sake, help the women!" He had been accompanied to the theater by Miss Veronica Murphy of 1850 California street and she was killed by his side. It was in her hand that the dying man gave the instructions to help the women.

Funeral services for Miss Murphy will be held at the chapel of Geier's Sons Co., 1115 H street.

MAKE FUNERAL PLANS FOR HOWARD S. KNEESSI

Charles W. Semmes Assists Family of Victim of Theater Disaster.

Arrangements will be completed today for the funeral of Howard S. Kneessi of 5501 Colorado avenue, who was killed and whose wife was injured in the Knickerbocker cave-in. Charles W. Semmes, president of the Semmes Motor Company, of which Mr. Kneessi was vice president, treasurer and active partner, is aiding the family to make plans.

Mr. Kneessi entered into partnership with Mr. Semmes in 1913 and they have been associated in the automobile business since that date. He was only thirty-four years of age and is survived by his injured wife, two brothers, a sister and his mother.

He was a member of the Columbia Country Club, the City Club, the Racquet Club and of the Automotive Trade Association. He was a member of the board of directors of the Dupont National Bank and was well known in local business circles.

Mr. Kneessi was educated in local public schools and was a graduate of McKinley High School.

WAS NOT AT THEATER. Miss Etta Underwood Was Wrongly Reported as Injured.

Miss Etta Underwood, listed as one of the injured at Emergency Hospital from the Knickerbocker Theater, was not in the accident at all. Miss Underwood was taken sick at her home, 2508 K street, and was taken to the Emergency Hospital as a medical patient just about the time of the accident.

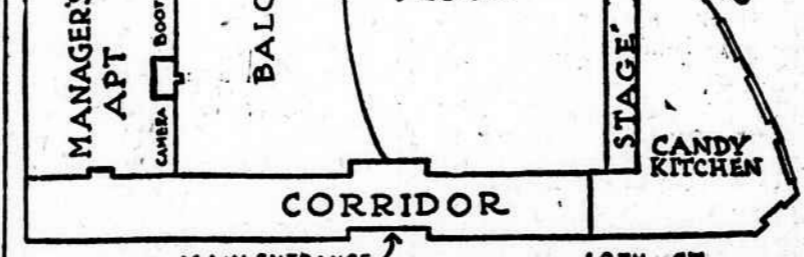
THREE SURVIVE VICTIM. Funeral Arrangements for Miss Mellan Not Made.

Miss Agnes M. Mellan, nineteen years of age, of 1437 Belmont street, who was killed at the theater, was the sister of Mrs. Grace Madert, Mrs. Emma Beninger and John Mellan. Her body was taken to Chambers' undertaking establishment, but arrangements for the funeral have not been completed.

CARD GAME SAVED LIVES. If Coroner Nevitt and his wife had not decided to play a game of cards Saturday night instead of going to the movies they, too, might have been victims of the Knickerbocker disaster.

Dr. Nevitt, it was learned last night, suggested a card game in lieu of the theater and while he and his wife were still playing word came of the crash.

DIAGRAM SHOWING CONSTRUCTION OF THE KNICKERBOCKER THEATER.



The two apartments at the left, the candy kitchen at the corner and the corridor along a 18th street side were not affected by the falling roof, which dropped over the entire main floor and balcony as if on a hinge on the top of the main wall which runs perpendicular to 18th street.

WARNING CRY OF "DUCK" SAVES MANY IN BALCONY OF THEATER

"Duck," was a warning shouted by one of the spectators that saved many persons who occupied seats in the balcony at the Knickerbocker Theater.

"I know it saved my life," said Dick Kracke, fourteen years old, 1917 18th street, who escaped without a scratch. Dick and three companions, Billy Pogue of 1820 20th street being one of them, attended the performance, where they had balcony seats.

"I heard a cracking noise," said Dick. "Then there was a second similar noise, and I realized something was wrong." It was about this time that the warning "duck" was shouted. Dick stated, and many persons occupying balcony seats fell to the floor. The crash came about the time they "ducked," and presently portions of the roof covers them, the seats holding them up for a few moments above them to save them from death.

The dust was stifling, the boys said, and the place was so dark that it was impossible to tell just which way to make a move. Billy Pogue struck a match and found an opening in the covering. The boys and others climbed through and succeeded in reaching the badly shattered stairway.

A man with a broken arm and his wife joined the boys, Dick stated, and the husband called to his wife, who had assisted him from the building. "Honey, get a taxi," she managed to utter. The taxi was called, and the couple sped away from the theater.

DR. GEARHART LOSES LEG, DUE TO THEATER CRASH. Feared His Other Foot Must Be Amputated—Friend Aids Him by Blood Transfusion.

Dr. Clyde M. Gearhart, one of the injured victims of the Knickerbocker Theater disaster, is at Emergency Hospital with serious injuries. Dr. Gearhart was seated about in the middle of the wrecked theater and was pinned under the wreckage for several hours before being rescued.

After his removal to the hospital he was placed on the operating table and one leg was removed. It was feared today by hospital officials that the other foot would have to be amputated on account of its condition. Dr. Gearhart, who accompanied Dr. Gearhart to the theater, was killed.

Dr. P. H. Edmonds, an oculist, gave a quantity of his blood for his friend, Dr. Gearhart, when the operation was attended the theater together. Their bodies were removed from the wreckage about 5 o'clock yesterday morning to the Christian Science Hospital, where they were taken to the emergency hospital.

MRS. BARCHFELD KILLED. Daughter-in-Law of Dead Ex-Representative Here on a Visit.

Mrs. Elmer Barchfeld, daughter-in-law of Dr. Andrew Jackson Barchfeld, who met death in the Knickerbocker disaster, was also killed. Mrs. Barchfeld, who was here on a visit from Pittsburgh, had been in Washington about five days and planned on staying five weeks. She and the former Pennsylvania representative attended the theater together. Their bodies were removed from the wreckage about 5 o'clock yesterday morning to the Christian Science Hospital, where they were taken to the emergency hospital.

HAD JUST BOUGHT TICKET. Police Surgeon Borden Has Narrow Escape From Death.

The story of the narrow escape of Police Surgeon Borden from death in the Knickerbocker Theater crash was related last night by detectives at the scene. According to one of the headquarters men, Dr. Borden had just bought a ticket for the show when the crash came. He was one of the first, therefore, to establish a first aid station in a nearby drug store.

MISS VIVIAN OGDEN. Miss Vivian Ogden, twenty-four years of age, of 3121 Mount Pleasant street, one of the victims of the Knickerbocker disaster, was private secretary to H. H. Shelton, lawyer, of the Munsey building, and was a night student of George Washington University.

She was a native of Louisiana, Ark., and her body will be sent there for burial. Funeral services were held at the Washington National Cathedral, 1300 N street, this afternoon.

THEATER PLANNED TO ALLOW CHANGES

So Constructed That Conversion to Apartment or Business Building Possible.

The manager of the Knickerbocker Theater, Robert Etris, lived in the theater building. His apartment was at the south end. It is stated that he ended the theater just before the crash, and for some time it was thought he had been caught by the falling roof. It appears he turned to the left and went to his apartment, which lies in a portion of the structure outside the theater proper, and which was not damaged.

It is stated that the Knickerbocker was built with the idea that, if the theater were not successful, the building could be turned into an apartment and run up several stories higher. There was the possibility that the building might later be turned into a combination of shops, ballroom, summer garden, restaurant, roof garden, etc.

Plans were drawn, according to neighbors who watched the building rise and who were approached to rent store space in case the combination amusement place were decided on, so that the structure could be turned into a three-story apartment building. The Columbia road side shows where the apartment house floors and windows would have been.

Just behind the stage, located at the narrow north end of the building, is a candy shop. A corridor-like division, containing the main entrance and lobby, connects this shop with the apartment portion, occupied by the manager of the theater. The structure of tin and iron, which added some little weight, and which also gave a chance for the twenty-five-mile-an-hour wind to exert considerable pressure on the weakening structure.

POLICE FORCE THEATERS TO REMOVE ROOF SNOW. Houses Remain Closed Sunday Until Order Is Compelled With.

Practically every theater in the city was open last night, but before the captain of police in whose precinct the house is located, had given his permission.

Following the order of the Commissioners, closing all theaters until the snow was removed from the roof, Inspector Sullivan, acting chief of police, issued orders to the captains of the precincts to see that the order was carried out. As the building inspector's force was not working yesterday no one could be secured from that source to make the inspection. It was stated, so the police captains were held responsible as to the safety of the theaters.

The captains generally visited each of the theaters and saw that the snow had not only been removed from the roofs, but from the exits as well, before they would allow the doors to be opened to the public.

At the Rialto Theater, where on Sunday morning a disastrous Sunday school class, of the Calvary Baptist Sunday school meets, Capt. Brown of the precinct refused to allow the class session to be held yesterday morning. Laborers had been busy clearing the roof, but as it had not been entirely removed, the officer declined to allow a session to be held there. The members were taken home, met in the church.

Two theaters, operated for colored people, were closed yesterday, each of the theaters and saw that the snow had not only been removed from the roofs, but from the exits as well, before they would allow the doors to be opened to the public.

The Howard Theater, T street between 6th and 7th streets, of which Walter Pinchback is manager, was closed yesterday. The managers announced they would not open the places and placed signs on the outside stating they were closed out of respect for the dead.

RED CROSS FOLK FORM SERVICE HOSPITALS AID. Rescue Workers Supplied With Various Comforts at Knickerbocker Theater.

Shortly after news of the Knickerbocker Theater disaster reached officials at Walter Reed Hospital the Red Cross field directors and the army medical corps were summoned from their homes in the city to report at once for what was a very serious situation.

At the scene of the disaster, the Red Cross workers made it possible for them to be immediately available for service at Red Cross quarters, accompanied the Walter Reed workers. At the scene of the disaster, the Red Cross workers made it possible for them to be immediately available for service at Red Cross quarters, accompanied the Walter Reed workers.

DIES OF HIS INJURIES. W. A. Brosseau, Jr., Was Student at Georgetown University.

W. A. Brosseau, Jr., who died early yesterday morning from injuries received in the Knickerbocker crash, is a native of North Adams, Mass. His father is the city physician, and that his father was a member of the Red Cross, was a student at Georgetown University, and was a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Kappa Alpha Phi Fraternity.

Brosseau, a resident at the Kappa Alpha Phi house, went to the theater with his friend, William L. Peters, also a resident at the Kappa Alpha Phi house, who was seated in their seats when the crash came. Peters said he threw himself on the floor and was caught on the arm of the chair. Peters said he prayed for "just one ray of light" and that his prayer was answered. He succeeded in extricating himself and then went back and to the rescue of Brosseau, who, when found, was severely injured.

The body will remain at the fraternal home until tomorrow, when it will be taken to North Adams for burial. The Knights of Columbus and the Kappa Alpha Phi Fraternity will have charge of the body. The fraternal yesterday announced that friends and relatives of the body from 5 until 10 o'clock tonight.

CARE FOR ORPHANED BOY. Mr. and Mrs. Albert F. Elkins of 13th Delaware street are taking temporary care of Oscar Grant Kanston, the twelve-year-old boy whose father, mother and two sisters were killed in the Knickerbocker disaster.

Alyn Kanston of Louisville, Ky., the boy's uncle, will arrive here tomorrow to take care of the estate. O. G. Kanston, Sr., was connected with the Interstate Commerce Commission here. The boy will probably be taken to Chicago, where his grandfather and grandmother are living.

ANOTHER VIRGINIAN DEAD. William Lovick Schofield of Danville, Va., who was killed in the crash, was the son of a prominent family of Danville. Samuel Schofield, a brother, wired to relatives in Danville informing of the death. The mother, brother and two sisters of young Schofield at present are in this city. The family is widely known in the section of the state in which they live, the textile town of Schofield near Danville, being named for one of its members. The body will be taken to Danville for interment.

FREEMAN SOUTH BEND BOY. G. Sidney Freeman, a violinist in the orchestra of the Knickerbocker Theater, who was killed when the roof fell, came here from South Bend, Ind., about a month ago to take a position with the Knickerbocker orchestra.

He lived with his wife at 2409 18th street. The Musicians' Union of the District is in charge of the body, which will be taken to South Bend for interment.